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AUG 19 2002

In re Application of

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Lorna Fyfe

:

Application No. 09/486,239

:

ON PETITION

Filed: February 23, 2000

:

Attorney Docket No. 313617

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This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed June 6, 2002, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is GRANTED.

The two-month period for filing an appeal brief in triplicate (accompanied by the fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(c)), runs from the date of this decision.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 in a timely manner to the final Office action mailed March 22, 2001, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. A reply under 37 CFR 1.113 is limited to an amendment that *prima facie* places the application in condition for allowance or a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(b)). Since the amendment submitted does not *prima facie* placing the application in condition for allowance, no Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee) was timely filed. Extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on September 23, 2001.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg.

53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the instant petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the instant petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address of currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

Pursuant to petitioner's authorization, Deposit Account No. 04-0480 was charged \$160.00 for the Notice of Appeal.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Wan Laymon at (703) 305-9282.

The application file is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 1651.

Wan Laymon
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Petitions Examiner
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for Patent Examination Policy

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